



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.6/52/3
7 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 146 (b)

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: ACTION TO BE
TAKEN IN 1999 DEDICATED TO THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST
INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE AND TO THE CLOSING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 6 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Please find enclosed the programme of action for the celebration of the
centennial of the first International Peace Conference, as drawn up pursuant to
General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996.

It is requested that the programme of action be distributed as an official
document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 146 (b).

(Signed) Jaap RAMAKER
Permanent Representative



ANNEX

Programme of action for the celebration of the centennial
of the first International Peace Conference

1. Introduction

1.1 Historical background

1. At 2 p.m., on 18 May 1999, it will be exactly 100 years ago since, at the invitation of Czar Nicholas II of Russia and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, the first Hague Peace Conference was called to order, ushering in the age of multilateral diplomacy and codification of international law.

2. The Conference ended on 29 July 1899 with the signing of:

- the Final Act of the Conference;
- the Convention on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes;
- the Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land;
- the Convention on the Application of the Principles of the 1864 Geneva Convention to Naval Warfare;

and the adoption of:

- the Declaration concerning the Prohibition of Launching Projectiles and Explosives from Balloons;
- the Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating Gases; and
- the Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Expanding Bullets.

3. It will be noted that these topics have been further developed in the course of the last 100 years. For most, special forums have been set up and they must be credited with significant successes. It is the view of the Netherlands and Russian co-hosts that the successes of these forums are to be ranked among the greatest achievements of multilateral diplomacy in the last century. The first International Peace Conference of 1899 marked the beginning of this trend and, 100 years later, may serve as a reminder of the common origins of today's diversity and achievements of multilateral diplomacy. For that reason, the centennial celebrations should not interfere with, but rather take note with satisfaction of the current activities of all those international forums to which the first International Peace Conference gave rise.

4. During the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Russian Federation proposed that Member States assemble once again, after 100 years, to review the results of this century-old initiative. At the same time the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands had started consultations about the ways and means of commemorating the 1899 Peace Conference.

5. In General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, entitled "Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Russian Federation and the Netherlands were invited:

"to arrange, as a matter of urgency, a preliminary discussion with other interested Member States on the substantive content of action to be taken in 1999 and to seek, in this respect, the cooperation of the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other relevant organizations".

The present programme of action was drafted in consultation with these "Friends of 1999".

1.2 Hague themes: essential rules of international law

6. The 1899 Conventions and Declarations were negotiated in three Commissions, dealing with the three main themes on the agenda:

- (a) The armament question;
- (b) Humanitarian law and the laws and customs of war;
- (c) The peaceful settlement of international disputes.

These themes will again feature on the agenda of the 1999 celebration of the centennial of the first Hague Peace Conference.

2. Format

2.1 Umbrella: a year of activities focusing on the Hague themes

7. The year 1999 is a special one from the point of view of international law in general, and the Hague law in particular. It marks not only the centennial of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference and the resulting Conventions and Declarations, but also the fiftieth anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war of 1949 and the closure of the United Nations Decade of International Law. The year 1999 will also see the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. In addition, events will take place all over the world in relation to the turn of the millennium, with a possible link to the 1899 Hague Peace Conference or any of its themes. Although such activities can only be applauded, the 1999 activities as envisaged in General Assembly

resolution 51/159, will focus on the well-defined relationship with the themes and events mentioned above.

8. Consequently, during the latter part of 1998 and the whole of 1999, the following types of activities are scheduled for the final year of the United Nations Decade of International Law.

(a) The celebration of the centennial of the 1899 International Peace Conference itself and its report to the General Assembly of the United Nations and to the other forums considering "1899 themes" (The Hague and St. Petersburg);

(b) Activities in other forums connected with the outcome of the 1899 Peace Conference, such as the closure of the United Nations Decade of International Law (New York), the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (Geneva), the possible revision of the 1954 Cultural Property Convention and the establishment of an International Criminal Court;

(c) Activities at the appropriate level (academics, senior civil servants and military/peacekeeping officials, legal professionals, the judiciary, international affairs publicists, etc.), such as regional meetings of national branches of the International Law Association and the equivalent forums for military and peacekeeping experts in preparation for the 1999 centennial celebrations at international, regional and national levels.

9. Each of these forums might be invited to report on the outcome of their deliberations on the Hague themes. The starting point for this string of events will be expert reports.

10. Under the umbrella of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the 1998-1999 international agenda will contain sustained discussions focusing on the Hague themes, starting from the conclusions of the rapporteurs on each of the themes, followed by their discussion at expert level in various regional meetings, finalized at expert level during celebratory events at The Hague and St. Petersburg, to be submitted to the political level at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and possibly at the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. Discussions might highlight points of substance as well as procedural points regarding enhanced adherence to the rules of international law and their implementation at the various levels.

2.2 Starting point: rapporteurs

11. In line with the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/157, "Programme for the activities for the final term (1997-1999) of the United Nations Decade of International Law", rapporteurs of major international standing have been invited to study the relevant developments of the Hague themes and to formulate views on their further developments in the next century and on the challenges for future generations, to be presented at

the 1999 centennial events. In order to stimulate a meaningful yet concise debate, these studies would have to be presented well before the fifty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (spring/summer 1998). This would allow for regional discussions on the reports in the run-up to the meetings at The Hague and St. Petersburg.

3. Venues

3.1 The Hague

12. At The Hague, the commemoration of the 1899 Conference will feature discussions at the level of legal advisers of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all States, focusing on legal/normative perspectives of Hague law with a view to putting forward recommendations to the appropriate international forums for further development within their respective spheres of competence. Surely no more suitable venue could be found for the commemoration of the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration than that bastion of international justice, the Peace Palace in The Hague, purpose-built to house the Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and now also the seat of the International Court of Justice and the Hague Academy of International Law.

3.2 St. Petersburg

13. Likewise, at St. Petersburg, the 1899 commemorations will close with a second centennial conference in the summer of 1999, focusing on issues regarding the implementation of international law, as developed from the 1899 Hague Conventions and Declarations.

3.3 New York and Geneva

14. As mentioned above, the United Nations Decade of International Law will close during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in New York. The celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war and the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent will be held at Geneva in August and November of 1999 respectively.

3.4 Regional activities

15. In the months preceding the May 1999 centennial celebrations the initial reports will be discussed on a regional basis, as mentioned above, in order to finalize discussions on the Hague themes at the expert level during the events at The Hague and St. Petersburg. These regional discussions should guarantee the participation of all countries and of many sectors of society. The Friends of 1999, in particular, will be called upon to initiate and coordinate¹ these discussions.

4. Logistics and coordination

4.1 Funding

16. The remuneration for the rapporteurs and the organizational costs of the events at The Hague and St. Petersburg will not be funded by the United Nations.

17. The activities in the scheduled forums will undoubtedly have been provided for by the appropriate organizations and participating States, as will be the various preparatory regional meetings. The only extra financial resources necessary will be voluntary contributions to ensure the attendance of experts from the least developed countries. An appeal to developed States to contribute voluntarily to the participation of representatives from developing States is included in the General Assembly resolution.

18. Scheduling regional events in the run-up to the centennial celebrations could facilitate universal participation in the 1999 discussions. The use of new technologies to allow the distribution of and comments on 1999 documents could serve to reduce costs, while at the same time ensuring widespread participation.

4.2 Dates

19. The most suitable dates for the celebration at The Hague of the centennial of the 1899 Peace Conference are 17 to 19 May 1999. On Monday, 17 May, the eve of its one hundredth anniversary, the Permanent Court of Arbitration will hold celebratory sessions for its members (arbitrators, members of the national groups) and the States parties to the first 1899/1907 Hague Conventions. The formal opening session of the 1999 centennial International Peace Conference would be convened on Tuesday, 18 May 1999, as it was in 1899. Monday and Tuesday, 18 and 19 May, would then be dedicated to the consideration of each of the reports and the comments made, with a view to reporting to the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and to other relevant international forums.

20. The schedule might include a celebratory event hosted by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. The grandmother of Queen Beatrix, Queen Wilhelmina, hosted the 1899 Conference in Huis ten Bosch Palace at The Hague (the Peace Palace was only opened on 28 August 1913).² The strong commitment of the Dutch Royal Family to the 1899 Peace Conference and to everything it has given rise to over the past century is generally known.

21. The St. Petersburg event will be scheduled in the summer of 1999. Preparations are presently being undertaken by the competent Russian national and local authorities.

4.3 "Friends of the 1999 centennial"

22. In line with the requirements of resolution 51/159, a special platform was set up, "Friends of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference", or "Friends of 1999", under the combined chairmanship of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands. Bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution, interested States were invited to join in the preparation of the 1999 conferences: Austria, Denmark, Poland, Switzerland and Ukraine from Europe; Egypt, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa from Africa; Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago from the Americas; India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand from Asia; and Australia from Oceania. The first meeting of the Friends of 1999 was convened at the Peace Palace on 22 April 1997.

23. Interested international governmental organizations include the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the United Nations and the International Court of Justice. The International Committee of the Red Cross is also included among the Friends of 1999. The group might be expanded to include the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). All of these are involved in the implementation of parts of international law relating to one of the Hague themes.

24. The Friends of 1999 also include the coordinator of non-governmental organization (NGO) activities in connection with the centennial celebrations.

4.4 The Hague Appeal for Peace

25. As they did 100 years ago, NGOs will actively seize the opportunity of the 1999 Peace Conference to express their commitment to the causes that will be addressed during the centennial discussions. NGOs might focus on any of the Hague themes from their own perspective. A sustained publicity drive in the regional and international run-up to and during the official celebrations will offer a suitable platform for NGOs to argue their respective cases before the ears, pens, microphones and lenses of world opinion. More specifically, in line with the resolutions referred to above, the work of NGOs to mobilize public opinion will be invaluable during the regional sessions and seminars in preparation for the 1999 conferences, as will be their expert knowledge on the subject matter. They will be given a platform if only because of the most famous phrases of the 1899 Conference: the "De Martens Clause" in the preamble to the 1899 Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land:

"Until a more complete code of the laws of war has been issued, the High Contracting Parties deem it expedient to declare that, in cases not included in the Regulations adopted by them, the inhabitants and the belligerents remain under the protection and the rule of the principles of the law of nations, as they result from the usages

established among civilized peoples, from the laws of humanity, and the dictates of the public conscience".

4.5 Exchange of documents and widespread participation

26. It is proposed to set up an Internet site for the exchange of views and documents regarding the 1999 celebrations. This is in line with the new methods of promoting compliance with and implementation of international law, as endorsed in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.¹ In this way, participants from all over the world will be able to take note of the views of other experts and, in reply, express their own views on any of the Hague themes. Moreover, documentation will be concentrated and available to all interested parties, without the need for expensive printing and mailing. Finally, after the closure of the centennial celebrations, or even the closure of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Internet site could be used as the source for the publication of the "1999 Proceedings", which may serve as guidelines for further elaboration of the results of the 1999 events in the early years of the next millennium.

Notes

¹ Regional Coordinators to be appointed by the organizers of regional or national "1999 events" to report the results of regional discussions to the Centennial Executive Secretariat for processing and distribution.

² See Arthur Eyffringer, The Peace Palace: residence for justice - domicile of learning, published by the Carnegie Foundation, The Hague, to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Peace Palace.

³ Notably General Assembly resolution 51/157.



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.6/52/3*
15 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 146 (b)

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW: ACTION TO BE
TAKEN IN 1999 DEDICATED TO THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST
INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE AND TO THE CLOSING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 13 October 1997 from the Permanent Representatives
of the Netherlands and the Russian Federation to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Please find enclosed the programme of action for the celebration of the
centennial of the first International Peace Conference, as drawn up pursuant to
General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996 by the Russian Federation
and the Netherlands.

It is requested that the programme of action be distributed as an official
document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 146 (b).

(Signed) Jaap RAMAKER
Permanent Representative

(Signed) Sergey V. LAVROV
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

97-27354 (E) 151097 161097



/...

ANNEX

Programme of action for the celebration of the centennial
of the first International Peace Conference

1. Introduction

1.1 Historical background

1. At 2 p.m., on 18 May 1999, it will be exactly 100 years ago since, at the invitation of Czar Nicholas II of Russia and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, the first Hague Peace Conference was called to order, ushering in the age of multilateral diplomacy and codification of international law.

2. The Conference ended on 29 July 1899 with the signing of:

- the Final Act of the Conference;
- the Convention on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes;
- the Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land;
- the Convention on the Application of the Principles of the 1864 Geneva Convention to Naval Warfare;

and the adoption of:

- the Declaration concerning the Prohibition of Launching Projectiles and Explosives from Balloons;
- the Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating Gases; and
- the Declaration concerning the Prohibition of the Use of Expanding Bullets.

3. It will be noted that these topics have been further developed in the course of the last 100 years. For most, special forums have been set up and they must be credited with significant successes. It is the view of the Netherlands and Russian co-hosts that the successes of these forums are to be ranked among the greatest achievements of multilateral diplomacy in the last century. The first International Peace Conference of 1899 marked the beginning of this trend and, 100 years later, may serve as a reminder of the common origins of today's diversity and achievements of multilateral diplomacy. For that reason, the centennial celebrations should not interfere with, but rather take note with satisfaction of the current activities of all those international forums to which the first International Peace Conference gave rise.

4. During the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Russian Federation proposed that Member States assemble once again, after 100 years, to review the results of this century-old initiative. At the same time the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands had started consultations about the ways and means of commemorating the 1899 Peace Conference.

5. In General Assembly resolution 51/159 of 16 December 1996, entitled "Action to be taken in 1999 dedicated to the centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Russian Federation and the Netherlands were invited:

"to arrange, as a matter of urgency, a preliminary discussion with other interested Member States on the substantive content of action to be taken in 1999 and to seek, in this respect, the cooperation of the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other relevant organizations".

The present programme of action was drafted in consultation with these "Friends of 1999".

1.2 Hague themes: essential rules of international law

6. The 1899 Conventions and Declarations were negotiated in three Commissions, dealing with the three main themes on the agenda:

- (a) The armament question;
- (b) Humanitarian law and the laws and customs of war;
- (c) The peaceful settlement of international disputes.

These themes will again feature on the agenda of the 1999 celebration of the centennial of the first Hague Peace Conference.

2. Format

2.1 Umbrella: a year of activities focusing on the Hague themes

7. The year 1999 is a special one from the point of view of international law in general, and the Hague law in particular. It marks not only the centennial of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference and the resulting Conventions and Declarations, but also the fiftieth anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war of 1949 and the closure of the United Nations Decade of International Law. The year 1999 will also see the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. In addition, events will take place all over the world in relation to the turn of the millennium, with a possible link to the 1899 Hague Peace Conference or any of its themes. Although such activities can only be applauded, the 1999 activities as envisaged in General Assembly

/...

resolution 51/159, will focus on the well-defined relationship with the themes and events mentioned above.

8. Consequently, during the latter part of 1998 and the whole of 1999, the following types of activities are scheduled for the final year of the United Nations Decade of International Law.

(a) The celebration of the centennial of the 1899 International Peace Conference itself and its report to the General Assembly of the United Nations and to the other forums considering "1899 themes" (The Hague and St. Petersburg);

(b) Activities in other forums connected with the outcome of the 1899 Peace Conference, such as the closure of the United Nations Decade of International Law (New York), the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (Geneva), the possible revision of the 1954 Cultural Property Convention and the establishment of an International Criminal Court;

(c) Activities at the appropriate level (academics, senior civil servants and military/peacekeeping officials, legal professionals, the judiciary, international affairs publicists, etc.), such as regional meetings of national branches of the International Law Association and the equivalent forums for military and peacekeeping experts in preparation for the 1999 centennial celebrations at international, regional and national levels.

9. Each of these forums might be invited to report on the outcome of their deliberations on the Hague themes. The starting point for this string of events will be expert reports.

10. Under the umbrella of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the 1998-1999 international agenda will contain sustained discussions focusing on the Hague themes, starting from the conclusions of the rapporteurs on each of the themes, followed by their discussion at expert level in various regional meetings, finalized at expert level during celebratory events at The Hague and St. Petersburg, to be submitted to the political level at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and possibly at the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. Discussions might highlight points of substance as well as procedural points regarding enhanced adherence to the rules of international law and their implementation at the various levels.

2.2 Starting point: rapporteurs

11. In line with the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/157, "Programme for the activities for the final term (1997-1999) of the United Nations Decade of International Law", rapporteurs of major international standing have been invited to study the relevant developments of the Hague themes and to formulate views on their further developments in the next century and on the challenges for future generations, to be presented at

/...

the 1999 centennial events. In order to stimulate a meaningful yet concise debate, these studies would have to be presented well before the fifty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (spring/summer 1998). This would allow for regional discussions on the reports in the run-up to the meetings at The Hague and St. Petersburg.

3. Venues

3.1 The Hague

12. At The Hague, the commemoration of the 1899 Conference will feature discussions at the level of legal advisers of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all States, focusing on legal/normative perspectives of Hague law with a view to putting forward recommendations to the appropriate international forums for further development within their respective spheres of competence. Surely no more suitable venue could be found for the commemoration of the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration than that bastion of international justice, the Peace Palace in The Hague, purpose-built to house the Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and now also the seat of the International Court of Justice and the Hague Academy of International Law.

3.2 St. Petersburg

13. Likewise, at St. Petersburg, the 1899 commemorations will close with a second centennial conference in the summer of 1999, focusing on issues regarding the implementation of international law, as developed from the 1899 Hague Conventions and Declarations.

3.3 New York and Geneva

14. As mentioned above, the United Nations Decade of International Law will close during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in New York. The celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war and the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent will be held at Geneva in August and November of 1999 respectively.

3.4 Regional activities

15. In the months preceding the May 1999 centennial celebrations the initial reports will be discussed on a regional basis, as mentioned above, in order to finalize discussions on the Hague themes at the expert level during the events at The Hague and St. Petersburg. These regional discussions should guarantee the participation of all countries and of many sectors of society. The Friends of 1999, in particular, will be called upon to initiate and coordinate¹ these discussions.

4. Logistics and coordination

4.1 Funding

16. The remuneration for the rapporteurs and the organizational costs of the events at The Hague and St. Petersburg will not be funded by the United Nations.

17. The activities in the scheduled forums will undoubtedly have been provided for by the appropriate organizations and participating States, as will be the various preparatory regional meetings. The only extra financial resources necessary will be voluntary contributions to ensure the attendance of experts from the least developed countries. An appeal to developed States to contribute voluntarily to the participation of representatives from developing States is included in the General Assembly resolution.

18. Scheduling regional events in the run-up to the centennial celebrations could facilitate universal participation in the 1999 discussions. The use of new technologies to allow the distribution of and comments on 1999 documents could serve to reduce costs, while at the same time ensuring widespread participation.

4.2 Dates

19. The most suitable dates for the celebration at The Hague of the centennial of the 1899 Peace Conference are 17 to 19 May 1999. On Monday, 17 May, the eve of its one hundredth anniversary, the Permanent Court of Arbitration will hold celebratory sessions for its members (arbitrators, members of the national groups) and the States parties to the first 1899/1907 Hague Conventions. The formal opening session of the 1999 centennial International Peace Conference would be convened on Tuesday, 18 May 1999, as it was in 1899. Monday and Tuesday, 18 and 19 May, would then be dedicated to the consideration of each of the reports and the comments made, with a view to reporting to the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, the twenty-seventh International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and to other relevant international forums.

20. The schedule might include a celebratory event hosted by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. The grandmother of Queen Beatrix, Queen Wilhelmina, hosted the 1899 Conference in Huis ten Bosch Palace at The Hague (the Peace Palace was only opened on 28 August 1913).² The strong commitment of the Dutch Royal Family to the 1899 Peace Conference and to everything it has given rise to over the past century is generally known.

21. The St. Petersburg event will be scheduled in the summer of 1999. Preparations are presently being undertaken by the competent Russian national and local authorities.

4.3 "Friends of the 1999 centennial"

22. In line with the requirements of resolution 51/159, a special platform was set up, "Friends of the centennial of the first International Peace Conference", or "Friends of 1999", under the combined chairmanship of the Russian Federation and the Netherlands. Bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution, interested States were invited to join in the preparation of the 1999 conferences: Austria, Denmark, Poland, Switzerland and Ukraine from Europe; Egypt, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa from Africa; Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago from the Americas; India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand from Asia; and Australia from Oceania. The first meeting of the Friends of 1999 was convened at the Peace Palace on 22 April 1997.

23. Interested international governmental organizations include the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the United Nations and the International Court of Justice. The International Committee of the Red Cross is also included among the Friends of 1999. The group might be expanded to include the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). All of these are involved in the implementation of parts of international law relating to one of the Hague themes.

24. The Friends of 1999 also include the coordinator of non-governmental organization (NGO) activities in connection with the centennial celebrations.

4.4 The Hague Appeal for Peace

25. As they did 100 years ago, NGOs will actively seize the opportunity of the 1999 Peace Conference to express their commitment to the causes that will be addressed during the centennial discussions. NGOs might focus on any of the Hague themes from their own perspective. A sustained publicity drive in the regional and international run-up to and during the official celebrations will offer a suitable platform for NGOs to argue their respective cases before the ears, pens, microphones and lenses of world opinion. More specifically, in line with the resolutions referred to above, the work of NGOs to mobilize public opinion will be invaluable during the regional sessions and seminars in preparation for the 1999 conferences, as will be their expert knowledge on the subject matter. They will be given a platform if only because of the most famous phrases of the 1899 Conference: the "De Martens Clause" in the preamble to the 1899 Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land:

"Until a more complete code of the laws of war has been issued, the High Contracting Parties deem it expedient to declare that, in cases not included in the Regulations adopted by them, the inhabitants and the belligerents remain under the protection and the rule of the principles of the law of nations, as they result from the usages

established among civilized peoples, from the laws of humanity, and the dictates of the public conscience".

4.5 Exchange of documents and widespread participation

26. It is proposed to set up an Internet site for the exchange of views and documents regarding the 1999 celebrations. This is in line with the new methods of promoting compliance with and implementation of international law, as endorsed in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.¹ In this way, participants from all over the world will be able to take note of the views of other experts and, in reply, express their own views on any of the Hague themes. Moreover, documentation will be concentrated and available to all interested parties, without the need for expensive printing and mailing. Finally, after the closure of the centennial celebrations, or even the closure of the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Internet site could be used as the source for the publication of the "1999 Proceedings", which may serve as guidelines for further elaboration of the results of the 1999 events in the early years of the next millennium.

Notes

¹ Regional Coordinators to be appointed by the organizers of regional or national "1999 events" to report the results of regional discussions to the Centennial Executive Secretariat for processing and distribution.

² See Arthur Eyffringer, The Peace Palace: residence for justice - domicile of learning, published by the Carnegie Foundation, The Hague, to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Peace Palace.

³ Notably General Assembly resolution 51/157.



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.6/52/4
29 October 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

Fifty-second session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Peter Tomka (Slovakia)

VICE-CHAIRMEN

Mr. Rolf Welberts (Germany)

Mr. Craig J. Daniell (South Africa)

RAPPORTEUR

Mr. Ghassan Obeid (Syrian Arab Republic)

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Afghanistan	Mr. M. Sharif Ghalib		
Albania	Mr. Sokol Braha	Mr. Adrian Spirollari	
Algeria	M. Abdallah Baali	M. Ahcène Kerma	
Andorra	Sr. Juli Minoves-Triuell	Sra. Jelena Pla-Comella Sr. Joan Forner-Rovira	
Angola			
Antigua and Barbuda	Mr. Patrick Lewis	Mr. John W. Ashe Ms. Domella Seth	
Argentina	Sr. Fernando Enrique Petrella	Sra. Silvia A. Fernández de Gurmendi	Sr. H. Coudeu
Armenia	Mr. Movses Abelian	Mr. Haik Papian Ms. Anna Aghadjanian	Mr. Areg Hovhannisian Mr. Arman Manukyan
Australia	Mr. Mark Gray	Ms. Amanda Hawkins	
Austria	Mr. Franz Cede	Mr. Gerhard Hafner Mr. Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff Ms. Karin Proidl	Mr. Gerhard Lolbl Mr. Georg Stillfried Mrs. Lilly Sucharipa
Azerbaijan	Mr. Eldar G. Kouliev Mr. Elchin Oktyabr Amirbekov		
Bahamas	Mr. Maurice E. Moore	Mrs. Sharon Brennen-Haylock	Mr. Philip Brice
Bahrain	Mr. Ahmed Al-Mulla	Mr. Tawfeeq Al-Mansoor	
Bangladesh	Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury	Mr. A.K.H. Morshed	Mr. Tarik Ahsan
Barbados	Ms. Jane Brathwaite		
Belarus	Mr. Sergei Kolos	Mr. Syargei Syargeeu	
Belgium	Mr. Evert Marechal		Mrs. Raymonde Focart
Belize	Mr. Lawrence A. Sylvester	Mr. Alfonso Gahona Mr. Trevor Jeffries	
Benin			

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Bhutan			
Bolivia	Sr. Marco Antonio Vidaurre	Srta. Estela Mendoza	Sra. Peggy Maldonado
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey	Ms. Amira Arifovic Mrs. Azra Kalajdzisalihovic	
Botswana	Mr. Diratsagae B. Molomo		
Brazil	Mr. Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim Mr. Henrique R. Valle Mr. João Clemente Baena Soares	Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota	Mr. Alexandre Porto
Brunei Darussalam	Mr. Maidin Hashim	Mr. Jaini Abdullah Mr. Na'aim Salleh	Mr. PG Kasmirhan PG HJ Tahir
Bulgaria	Mr. Yuri Shterk	Mr. Emil Valev Mr. Christo Christov	
Burkina Faso	M. Gaétan R. Ouedraogo	M. Henri Bacye	
Burundi	Mr. Herménégilde Nkurabagaya	M. Jean-Baptiste Hajayandi	
Cambodia			
Cameroon			
Canada	Mr. J. Holmes	Mr. P. Kirsch Mr. A. Gloux	Ms. P. Rao
Cape Verde	Mr. José Luis Monteiro Mr. Jorge T. Araújo	Mr. Júlio Lopes	
Central African Republic	M. Fernand Poukré-Kono		
Chad			M. Darnace Torou
Chile	Sr. Juan Somavía Sr. Juan Larraín		Sr. Francisco Orrego Sr. Héctor Correa
China	Mr. Qin Huasun Mr. Chen Shiqiu Mr. Gao Feng	Ms. Gao Yanping Mr. Duan Jielong	

<i>Country Pays País</i>	<i>Representative Représentant Representante</i>	<i>Alternates Suppléants Suplentes</i>	<i>Advisers Conseillers Consejeros</i>
Colombia	Sr. Julio Londoño-Paredes		Sra. Clara I. Vargas de Losada
Comoros			
Congo			
Costa Rica	Sr. Fernando Berrocal	Sr. Melvin Sáenz	Sr. Carlos F. Díaz
Côte d'Ivoire	M. Youssoufou Bamba	M. Basile Aka Koby M. Abéni Koffi	
Croatia	Mr. Ivan Šimonović	Ms. Ljerka Alajbeg Mr. Joško Klisović Mr. Stanko Nick	
Cuba	Sra. Caridad Yamira Cueto Millán		
Cyprus	Mr. Andreas J. Jacovides		
Czech Republic	Mr. Milan Beránek	Mr. Václav Mikulka Mr. Martin Šmejkal	Mr. Ivo Janda
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Mr. Choe Myong Nam	Mr. Ri Jang Gon	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	M. Zénon Mukongo Ngay		
Denmark	Mr. Tyge Lehmann	Mr. Peter Gebert	
Djibouti	Mr. Badri Ali Bogoreh		
Dominica			
Dominican Republic	Sra. Cristina Aguilar	Sr. Francisco Tovar	Sr. Olivio Fermín
Ecuador	Sr. Luis Valencia	Sr. Guillermo Camacho	
Egypt	Mr. Nabil A. Elaraby Mr. Soliman Awaad Mr. Hussein Mubarak Mrs. Lamia Mekhemar		
El Salvador	Sr. Guillermo A. Meléndez	Srta. Laura Cruz	
Equatorial Guinea			
Eritrea	Mrs. Elsa Haile		
Estonia	Mrs. Tiina Intelmann	Mr. Toomas Lukk	Mrs. Malle Talvet

<i>Country Pays País</i>	<i>Representative Représentant Representante</i>	<i>Alternates Suppléants Suplentes</i>	<i>Advisers Conseillers Consejeros</i>
Ethiopia	Mr. Berhanemeskel Nega	Mr. Workie Briye	
Fiji	Mr. Poseci Bune	Mr. Sakiusa Rabuka Mr. Jone Draunimasi Ms. Alefina Vuki	Mr. Ahmed Ali
Finland	Ms. Marja Lehto	Mr. Holger Rotkirch Ms. Päivi Kaukoranta Ms. Sari Mäkelä	
France	M. Hubert Legal M. François Alabrune	M. Damien Loras	
Gabon	M. Denis Dangué Rewaka	M. Guillaume Pambou Tchivounda Mme Annette Andrée Onanga	
Gambia	Mr. Momodou K. Jallow Mr. Mawdo Touray		
Georgia	Mr. Alexander Chkheidze	Mr. Zaal Vv. Gogsadze	
Germany	Mr. Tono Eitel Mr. Hartmut Hilligenberg Mr. Reinhard Hilger Mr. Rolf Welberts Mr. Kai Hennig	Mr. Ernst Martens Ms. Elke Schmitz Mr. Jochen Trebesch Mr. Dieter Woltmann	Mr. Bernd Warnat
Ghana	Mr. Jacob B. Wilmot	Mr. Eric Odol-Anim	
Greece	Mr. Krateros Ioannou		Mr. Vassilis Patronas Mrs. Fani Daskalopoulou-Livada Mrs. Mara Telalian
Grenada	Mr. Lamuel Stanislaus		
Guatemala	Sr. Roberto Lavallo Valdés		
Guinea			
Guinea-Bissau	M. João Soares Da Gama	M. Danilson Lopes Da Rosa	
Guyana	Mr. S. R. Insanally	Ms. A. Drayton Ms. Y. Cox	
Haiti	M. Antonio Rodrigue Mlle Béatrice Eugène		

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Honduras	Sr. Julio Rendón Barnica		
Hungary	Mr. György Szénási	Mr. Árpád Prandler	Mr. Csaba Sz. Nagy
Iceland	Mr. Magnús K. Hannesson		
India	Mr. S. Rama Rao		
Indonesia	Mr. Makarim Wibisono Mr. Arizal Effendi	Mr. Harry P. Haryono Mr. T.A. Samodra Sriwidjaja	Ms. Linggawaty Hakim Mr. Ferry Adamhar Mr. Dicky Fabrian Mr. Ricky Suhendar
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr. Saeid Mirzaee- Yengeje	Mr. Ali Hadji Gholam Saryazdi	Ms. Jila Ariyanpour
Iraq	Mr. Riadh Hashim Al-Adhami	Mr. Mohammed Al- Humalimidi	
Ireland	Ms. B. O'Donoghue	Ms. A. Connolly	
Israel	Mr. Alan Baker	Mr. Daniel Taub Ms. Yaël Ronen	Mr. Yitzchak Blum Ms. Leeora Kidron
Italy	Mr. Umberto Leanza Mr. Mauro Politi	Ms. Angela del Vecchio	Mr. Attila Tanzi Mr. Giuseppe Nesi
Jamaica	Mr. Patrick Robinson	Mr. Wayne McCook Ms. Michelle Walker Mr. Sheldon McDonald	Mrs. Cheryl Thompson- Barrow
Japan	Mr. Hisashi Owada	Mr. Chusei Yamada Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa Mr. Yasumasa Nagamine Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura Mr. Isao Fukushima	
Jordan	Mr. Hasan Abu-Nimah Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein	Mr. Walid Obeidat Mr. Salah Suheimat	
Kazakhstan	Ms. Akmaral Arystanbekova	Ms. Jouldyz Akicheva	Mr. Marat Tasmagambetov
Kenya	Mr. Thuita Mwangi	Ms. Juliet Gicheru	
Kuwait	Mr. Ayadah Al-Saidi	Mr. Nazar Al-Baghli	
Kyrgyzstan	Ms. Z. Eshmambetova	Mr. A. Anarbayev	Mr. A. Abbadi

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mr. Vanpheng Sengmanothong		
Latvia	Mrs. Baiba Lalzāne	Ms. Solveiga Silkalna	
Lebanon	Mr. Samir El-Khoury	Mr. Hicham Hamdan	
Lesotho	Mr. P. Mochochoko		
Liberia	Mr. Christian M. Wisseh		
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Mohamed Matri	Mr. Abdusalam Sergiwa	Mr. Nabil Al-Akuri
Liechtenstein	Mrs. Claudia Fritsche	Mr. Christian Wenaweser	Mr. Philipp Wanger
Lithuania	Mr. Oskaras Jusys	Mr. Rytis Raulauskas	
Luxembourg	M. Marc Baltes		
Madagascar			
Malawi	Mr. T.P. Chimimba	Mr. B.M. Msaka	Mr. E.M. Singini
Malaysia	Mr. Yahya Rameez		
Maldives	Ms. Fathmath Reena	Mr. Ahmed Sareer	
Mali	M. Foune Sylla	M. Sekouba Cisse	
Malta	Mr. G. Saliba	Mr. A. Tabone	
Marshall Islands	Mr. J. Relang		
Mauritania	Mr. Yahya Ngam		
Mauritius	Mr. Taye Wah Wan Chat Kwong	Mr. J. Nayeck	
Mexico	Sr. Miguel Angel González Félix Sr. Bernardo Sepúlveda Sra. Socorro Flores		
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Mr. Mathias Maradol	Mr. Jeern Lippwe	Mr. Martin Zvachula
Monaco	M. Jacques L. Boisson	Mme Isabelle Picco	
Mongolia	Mr. Jargalsaikhny Enkhsaikhhan	Mr. Ravja Mounkhou	

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Morocco	M. Lahcen Azoulay M. Amal Belcaid		
Mozambique	Mr. Cristiano dos Santos	Mr. Filipe Chidumo	
Myanmar	Mr. Kyaw Win	Mr. Myint Kyi	Mr. Kyaw Swa
Namibia	Mr. Martin Andjaba		Mr. E. Hakwenye
Nepal	Mr. Narendra B. Shah	Mr. Gopal B. Thapa	Mr. Bishnu Bhattarai Mr. Bhrigu Dhungana
Netherlands	Mr. A. Bos Mr. H.G.J. Verwelj	Mr. M. Büchli	Mr. J.J. Wiarda Mr. N.H.E. van Helten Mr. W.C. van Sluys
New Zealand	Mr. Michael Powles	Ms. Felicity Wong	
Nicaragua	Sr. Mario Castellón Duarte	Sr. Enrique Paguaga Fernández Sr. Edmundo Castillo	Sr. Javier Williams
Niger	M. Boubacar Tankoano	M. Souleymane Magagi Iro	
Nigeria			
Norway	Mr. Dag Wernø Holter	Mr. Hans W. Longva Mr. Rune Resaland	Mr. Tormod Endresen Mr. Erik Sandsten Mr. Hakon Gulbrandsen
Oman	Mr. Mohammed Al-Sameen	Mr. Said Al-Harthy	Mr. Salim Bin Mohammed Al-Khussaiby
Pakistan	Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan	Mr. Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju Mr. Shamshad Ahmad Mr. Ahmad Kamal	Mr. Akram Zaki Mr. Mian Abdul Waheed Mr. Jamshed Hamid Mr. Najm Akbar Ms. Mariam Aftab
Palau			
Panama	Sr. Aquilino Boyd	Sr. Hernán Tejela Srta. Judith Cardoze	Sra. María P. Sgro
Papua New Guinea	Mr. Utula U. Samana	Mr. Jimmy Ovia Mr. Adam Delaney	Ms. Muir

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Paraguay	Sr. Bernardino Hugo Saguler Caballero	Sr. José Emilio Gorostiaga	Srta. Martha Moreno
Peru	Sr. Fernando Guillén	Sra. Maritza Rodríguez Srta. Ana Peña	
Philippines	Mr. Felipe Mabilangan Mrs. Maria Lourdes V. Ramiro Lopez	Mr. Carlos D. Sorreta	Mr. Alain Maullon
Poland	Mr. Zbigniew Włosowicz	Mr. Andrzej Misztal	Mr. Marcin Nawrot Mr. Zdzisław Galicki Mr. Jan Jaremczuk
Portugal	Ms. Paula Escameia	Mr. Jose Calheiros da Gama	
Qatar	Mr. Nasser Al-Khalifa	Mr. Rashid Al-Khater	Mr. Mohamed Bakhit Al-Marri
Republic of Korea	Mr. Soo Gil Park	Mr. Chang Beom Cho Mr. Sang Hoon Cho	Mr. Kak Soo Shin Mr. Sung Kyu Lee Mr. Hee Kwon Park Mr. Young Uk Chum Mr. Ki-Jun You Mr. Choung Il Chee
Republic of Moldova	Mr. Vladimir Chirincluc		
Romania	Mr. Aurel Preda	Mr. Florin Angelo Florian	
Russian Federation	Mr. Aleksandr V. Zmeevsky	Mr. Sergei N. Karev	Mr. Konstantin F. Shakhmuradov Mr. Igor K. Panevkin Mr. Sergei M. Tarasenko Mr. Vladimir G. Zemlyakov Mr. Yury A. Yermolaev Mr. Viktor B. Khorikov Mr. Viktor N. Krysov
Rwanda	Ms. Christine Umutoni	Mr. Eric Rubayita	Mr. Vénuste Habiyaemye
Saint Kitts and Nevis			
Saint Lucia			

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Mrs. Heather Okyere	Ms. Zenitha Simmons	
Samoa	Mr. Tuiloma Neroni Slade	Ms. Andrea Williams-Stewart	
San Marino	Ms. Elena Molaroni	Ms. Enrica Taddei	
Sao Tome and Principe			
Saudi Arabia	Mr. Mohammad A. Al-Ajlan	Mr. Hani Moumina Mr. Hazza Al-Motaery	
Senegal			
Seychelles	Mr. Claude Morel		
Sierra Leone	Mr. Fode M. Dabor	Mr. Otto O. During	
Singapore	Mr. Bishari Kausikan	Ms. Karen Tan	Ms. Joanna Foo Mr. Soh Tze Bian
Slovakia	Mr. Peter Tomka Mr. Ján Varso	Mr. Igor Grexa Mr. Drahoslav Stefánek	
Slovenia	Mr. Danilo Türk	Ms. Mirjam Škrk Mr. Borut Mahnič Ms. Anita Pipan	
Solomon Islands	Mr. Rex Stephen Horoi		Mr. Harold Fruchtbaum
Somalia			
South Africa	Mr. Albertus Hoffmann	Mr. Craig Daniell	Mr. John Dugard
Spain			
Sri Lanka	Mr. H.L. de Silva Mr. Rohan Perera	Mr. A.S. Nakandala	
Sudan	Mr. Omer Dahab		
Suriname	Mr. Subhas Mungra	Mr. Michel Kerpens Ms. Natasha Halfhuid Mr. Ewald Limon Ms. Nalini Sewpersadsingh	
Swaziland	Mr. Melusie M. Masuku		

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
Sweden	Mr. Lars Magnuson Mr. Anders Rönquist	Mr. Hans Linton Mr. Bertil Roth Mr. Per Saland Mr. Niklas Hedman	Ms. Sigrid Bolkéus
Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Mikkail Wehbe Mr. Ghassan Obeld		
Tajikistan			
Thailand	Mr. Asda Jayanama	Mr. Somboon Sanglambut Mr. Charivat Santaputra Mr. Kam Chiranond	Ms. Oracha Tanakorn Mr. Benjamin Sukanjanaatee
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Ms. Maja Ortakova		
Togo	M. Adjéoda K. Assah	M. Ayabo K. Abalo	
Trinidad and Tobago	Ms. Gaile Ramoutar		
Tunisia	M. Ali Hachani Mme Samia Ladgham		
Turkey	Ms. Yeşim Baykal	Mr. Ahmet Arda	
Turkmenistan		Mr. Essen Aldogdyev	
Uganda	Mrs. J.D. Semambo Kalema		
Ukraine	Mr. Volodymyr Yel'Chenko	Mr. Markiyan Kulyk Mr. Volodymyr Semenchenko	Ms. Tetyana Zhmachenko Mr. Oleh Herasymenko Mr. Victor Kachurenko
United Arab Emirates	Mr. Yacub Yousif Al-Hosani		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Franklin Berman Mr. John Grainger Ms. Susan Dickson		
United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. D. Mwakawago	Mr. N. Manongi	

Country Pays País	Representative Représentant Representante	Alternates Suppléants Suplentes	Advisers Conseillers Consejeros
United States of America	Mr. Robert Rosenstock Ms. Carolyn Willson Mr. Peter Burleigh	Mr. David Andrews Mr. John Crook Mr. Michael Matheson Mr. David Scheffer	Mr. John Arbogast Ms. Cathleen Corken Ms. Linda Jacobson Ms. Anne Joyce Mr. John Kim Ms. Mary Ellen Warlow Mr. Samuel M. Witten Mr. Harvey Dalton Mr. William Lietzau Mr. Kenneth O'Rourke Ms. Jamison Borek
Uruguay	Sr. Jorge Pérez Oterlin	Sr. Julio Benitez-Sáenz	
Uzbekistan	Mr. Olamgir Razzakov		Mr. Alisher Vohidov
Vanuatu			
Venezuela	Sr. R. Escovar Salom Sra. Adriana Pulido	Sr. Roger Yépez Sr. Víctor Rodríguez Sr. Norman Monagas	Sra. M. Betancourt Srta. Sharon Mannon
Viet Nam	Mr. Ngo Quang Xuan Mr. Pham Quang Vinh	Mr. Pham Truong Giang	
Yemen	Mr. Abdula A. Al-Shammam		
Yugoslavia			
Zambia	Mrs. Mwila Grace Banda Chigaga	Mrs. Encyla Tina Sinjela	
Zimbabwe	Ms. Esther Chibanda- Munyati		

**NON-MEMBER STATES MAINTAINING PERMANENT
OBSERVER MISSIONS AT HEADQUARTERS**

Country	Representatives
Holy See	Msgr. Vincent La Rocca Mr. Peter Remec
Switzerland	

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING RECEIVED A STANDING
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS IN THE SESSIONS AND THE WORK
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Organization	Representatives
European Community	Ms. Marie-Anne Coninx Ms. Ester Peralba García Mr. Boris Dzidi
League of Arab States	Mr. Hussein Hassouna Mr. Mokhtar Lamani

**OTHER ENTITIES HAVING RECEIVED A STANDING INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE
AS OBSERVERS IN THE SESSIONS AND THE WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Organization	Representatives
International Committee of the Red Cross	Mr. Jean-Philippe Lavoyer Mr. Bruno Zimmermann Mr. Yves Sandoz

**SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS MAINTAINING LIAISON
OFFICES AT HEADQUARTERS**

Organization	Representative
International Labour Organization	Mr. Franklyn Lisk Mr. Patrick Carriere Ms. Donna Smith
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Ms. Nina Sibal Ms. Martha De Sosa
World Health Organization	Mr. Andrew J. Joseph Mrs. Cecilia Rose-Oduyemi



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.6/52/5
30 October 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

Letter dated 28 October 1997 from the Chairman of the Fifth
Committee to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee

I wish to draw your attention to the concerns raised repeatedly by the delegations of the Fifth Committee during both formal meetings and informal consultations at the current session of the General Assembly regarding the tendency of substantive Committees to involve themselves in budgetary and administrative matters.

In this connection, I should like to refer to section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B on the procedures for administrative and budgetary matters, whereby the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters as well as the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In the same resolution, the Assembly expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters.

Further, rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly states:

"No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. No resolution in respect of which expenditures are anticipated by the Secretary-General shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations."

Accordingly, when a Main Committee is about to adopt a draft resolution involving expenditures recommended for approval by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submits a statement of programme budget implications. It goes without saying that the primary responsibility of your Committee, in respect of the consideration of a statement by the Secretary-General on programme budget



implications, is to review the programmatic aspect of it, leaving the consideration of the financial aspects to the Fifth Committee.

Taking into account the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and Assembly resolutions 41/213, 42/211 and 45/248 reaffirming the role of the Fifth Committee as the competent Main Committee that considers all reports of the Secretary-General with administrative and financial implications and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, I would appreciate it very much if, in the course of your consideration of any proposal, the financial aspects were left aside for the appropriate and necessary decision of the Fifth Committee.

I should be grateful if the above concerns and necessary clarifications were brought to the attention of your Committee and taken into account in your deliberations on proposals.

(Signed) Anwarul Karim CHOWDHURY
Chairman
Fifth Committee of the General Assembly
